

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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THE RHINELAND

France's Collateral for German Debts to Private Firms.

France's proposal to take over private plants and properties in Rhineland and in the Ruhr district unless prompt settlement is made by Germany of overdue debts to French firms again calls attention to that province, which has aptly been called the "richest jewel in the crown of Prussia."

"The allied zone of occupation virtually embraces this erstwhile power plant and factory of the old German empire," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society. "The richest source of coal, iron and other minerals along Europe's busiest waterway and the consequent construction of railways in Rhineland make this province the foremost industrial area, for its size, anywhere in the world."

"The entire Rhineland, before the peace conference, was only a little larger than the State of New Hampshire. Peace settlements which cut off from the Rhine province the plebsite area of the Saar basin and ceded Eupen and Malmédy to Belgium reduced Rhenish Prussia by almost a thousand square miles. Of the portion remaining to Germany by far the most important is that known as the Ruhr basin, a part of which basin extends beyond the Rhineland into Westphalia."

"A blow to the Rhineland already effected, though it has attracted little attention, was the decision in the spring that work on the strategic railways must cease. As early as 1870 Germany had nine railroads running to the French frontier, and by 1914 three more had been added while others were double tracked. At the risk of imposing a hardship upon German industries it was deemed necessary, for the military protection of France, that further railway activity of that sort must be suspended."

"Even the American, with his knowledge of the mines of Pennsylvania and the factories of Massachusetts finds it hard to conceive the concentrated industrialism of the Rhineland. It is the most thickly populated section of crowded Prussia. It has more towns than any comparable region of Germany. It averages 75 more people to the square mile than our own thickly settled Rhode Island."

"Coblentz, the headquarters of the American army of occupation; Cologne, of the British; Mainz and Wiesbaden, of the French, are four of the notable cities, while its great market town, Aix-la-Chapelle, its iron city of Düsseldorf, and its miniature Pittsburgh (Duisburg) are scarcely less famed. The industrial shrine of the Ruhr basin is Essen, where the wonder story of the Krupp boom unfolded, and where the output of big guns and munitions in general has been converted into a stream of locomotives, farm implements and almost every other conceivable article of iron and steel, even to roller skates. Only 26 miles southeast of Mainz is venerable Worms, the Rhine of Protestantism, for there it was that Luther defied the famous Diet of Worms, the 400th anniversary of which was celebrated by Protestant churches the world over last year."

"To imagine this map speak which is known as the Ruhr district one writer to the National Geographic society suggests that the reader think of the Pennsylvania coal fields packed in this tiny area; pour in the combined population of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland and St. Louis, then take a flock of the biggest American steel mills and railroad shops you can recall and set them down along the Ruhr. To complete the picture fill in the gaps with paper, silk and cotton mills, glass factories, tanneries, dye, chemical and salt works. Such is the much discussed Ruhr basin, which France, turns to for a part of the collateral for Germany's debts to French private firms."

ENGINE BREAKS ON BRIDGE.

Accident to Freight Train Crossing Catawba River.

"My escape from death was little short of miraculous," declared the engineer of a through freight train running between Columbia and Charlotte Sunday night when the journal of the main right hand driving wheel of the locomotive wrung off on Catawba river bridge, three miles south of Fort Mill, releasing the driving rods, which pounded into the cross-ties and on the cab and boiler of the locomotive until a hole was knocked in the boiler, releasing the steam and finally bringing the train to a stop on the grade a few hundred yards north of the bridge. The accident to the locomotive at once put the air brakes out of commission and the train could not thus be stopped. The engineer said he and his fireman thought of jumping into the river, 40 feet below, but concluded that it meant certain death and therefore decided to stick to the locomotive. Both came through the accident without injury.

Shortly after the train stopped a negro boy who was beating a ride on it was dispatched to Fort Mill to inform the section master here of the accident. The boy fell into the hands of the night police officer, however, who figured it out that he was a suspicious character and locked him up. As a consequence, there was some delay in getting the word to the section master, but the boy finally convinced the officer of the importance of his mission and the section master and his crew left shortly thereafter for what they supposed was a serious wreck; but they found the locomotive still on the track and little time was required to get it in condition to be taken to the shops in Rock Hill.

Odd Convicts' Club.

Park Row, New York city, has an annual dinner that is not reported in the newspapers. The dinner is held in a private room at a hotel and the guests are men past the middle age of life, mostly silver haired and prosperous looking. When they finish their banquet the doors are locked and the hotel attendants are excluded. It is the hour for retrospection. And time rolls back to the days when they wore, not correct dinner clothes, but prison stripes. They are men who have paid the law's price for crimes and have "come back."

Each has won distinction in his field of endeavor. Several are extremely rich. This unusual organization was formed some 20 years ago. A man must be out of prison ten years and have a clean record before he is admitted to membership. No one knows save the members what is said behind the locked doors. Not even in the pre-prohibition days was a drink of intoxicating liquor served. Most of them went down into the pit through drink and they shun it now.

Married Tuesday Afternoon.

Miss Annie Elizabeth Parks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Parks, was married Tuesday afternoon at the home of her parents to J. H. S. Pearson of Spartanburg. The Rev. W. R. Bouknight, pastor of St. John's Methodist church, officiated, using the ring ceremony, in the presence of members of the families and a few close friends. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson left late Tuesday afternoon for Spartanburg, where they will make their home. Mrs. Pearson has many friends in Fort Mill who regret that her marriage takes her away from here. For several months she had been bookkeeper for the Fort Mill Cooperative association and was an active worker in the Sunday school of St. John's church. Mr. Pearson is at present a student at Wofford college, Spartanburg. He will enter the Methodist ministry as soon as he completes his college course.

John M. Hutchinson and his family this week moved from Fort Mill to Lambertson, N. C., where they will make their home.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

Items of General Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

As usual the county campaign meeting at Rock Hill last Saturday was but slimly attended, the candidates outnumbering the audience. The Rock Hill people seldom pay much attention to county campaign meetings. The Friday night meeting at the Aragon-Blue Buckle mill, however, was worth while.

Rural York county is not what it was 30 years ago. Many of the handsome, well kept homes of the old days show signs of neglect and abandonment that are pitiable. True prosperity of this county depends upon the prosperity of the farmers and there is need for something to be done to arrest the agricultural decadence now so evident.

Rev. Baxter F. McLendon (Cyclone Mack) commenced a series of meetings at Lincolnton last Sunday afternoon, with an attendance of 4,000 people at the opening service. The big crowd was made up principally of people of Lincolnton and the surrounding country, but it was augmented by hundreds of visitors from all over North and South Carolina.

Farmers of the Clover section who have planted more than 100 acres in peanuts this year say that the peanuts are looking pretty good at this stage and that in some instances they are about ready for harvesting. Experiments with peanuts is something new in the Clover section and if the yield is good and the price offered is the least bit attractive the peanut acreage of the community will likely be much larger another year.

"An agrarian revolution is being born that will sweep the South, the West and the entire nation," declared Hon. J. Skottowe Wannamaker of St. Matthews addressing the big agricultural picnic held Tuesday in Oates' grove, Tizrah. "We know that there is already great discontent throughout the country and when discontent is widespread it is never without justification. This movement will have the alliance and support of the great commercial divisions directly dependent upon agriculture and the close cooperation and support of leaders of thought who realize the vital necessity of prosperous agriculture."

There is an opinion current that county expenses might be cut down just a mite by doing away with the services of the farm demonstration agent and the woman's home demonstration agent another year. While W. A. Bolin is the only legislative candidate who has so far stated from the stump that he favors doing away with the two offices, it is understood that there are others pretty nearly of the same mind. Reports from several of the counties where demonstration agents are employed this year is that they will not be employed for another year. On the other hand it is reported that Representative W. R. Bradford of Fort Mill is being rather strenuously opposed for reelection because he refused to support a proposal last year to employ a "boll weevil" farm demonstration agent at a salary of \$1,500 a year to come off the taxpayers of York county.

Jury Refuses to Convict.

A trial yesterday afternoon in the court of Magistrate J. R. Haile which attracted almost as large a crowd as the county campaign meeting in Fort Mill earlier in the day was that of Elmore Gordon against Webb Heath who was charged with beating Gordon out of a board bill, which, according to figures presented as evidence, amounted to about \$20. Heath contended that the bill, which he admitted he owed, was not a board bill, but was an account which he had contracted at Gordon's restaurant for lunches furnished him from time to time. After hearing the evidence, the jury retired and in about ten minutes brought in a verdict of not guilty.

SEES FOREIGN LANDS.

Robert E. Lee at Home After Visit to Old World.

Robert E. Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Lee of Fort Mill township, who enlisted in the navy several years ago and has recently seen service in foreign waters aboard the destroyer Fireman, has been spending a few days with his parents near town. Mr. Lee left Constantinople on July 8 and 14 days later landed in New York city. During the last few months he has had the good fortune to touch at ports in Egypt, Turkey, Spain, Russia, Asia, Africa and other countries.

Speaking of conditions in the Old World, Mr. Lee said to The Times a day or two ago that with the exception of Russia, the people are able to get all the food they need, and at much lower prices than similar food can be bought for in this country. In Turkey, he said, the workman is paid 25 cents a day for his labor and from this supports his family. "The Turks," he continued, "are a very muscular people and I have seen many of the men over there carrying from 500 to 600 pounds on their backs. The Turkish girls dress much like our American girls."

"The other countries of the world seem to be trying to starve out the Russians. When I first went over there dogs could be seen everywhere. Now there are few dogs left—most of them have been eaten. For some time the death rate has been very high in Russia. Many people have starved to death and hundreds of thousands have died of disease. In some sections of the country dead bodies may be seen lying in the streets and in the public roads. No effort is made to bury the corpses."

"In the Holy Land I saw the place where tradition says Christ was born as well as many other interesting places one may read of in the Bible. In Naples, Italy, the thing that interested me most was the National museum, which was built more than 300 years ago. It contains many of the finest paintings and pieces of sculpture to be found anywhere in Italy. There are many excellent hotels in Naples with English attendants."

"While in Paris I went to the top of the Eiffel tower. The tower is in the Champs de Mars, a great gathering place for tourists of all nations. Eiffel tower is 984 feet high, 200 feet higher than the Woolworth building in New York and nearly twice as high as the Washington monument."

"When we arrived in Turkish waters we sent our leader in to get a man to show us where to anchor. The Turks told him they were preparing to kill 250 Greeks that night. They were informed that it would mean the withdrawal of the American consul and that the Greek troops would be allowed to enter the town. The Greeks were not molested that night, but the next night when the Turks thought we had left, they butchered 300 Greeks. Then the Greek troops marched in and played havoc with that section of Turkey."

Mr. Lee left yesterday for New York, where he will remain for about 30 days. He will then sail for South America, China and other countries.

Few Attend Meeting.

A crowd which at no time numbered more than 75 yesterday heard most of the candidates for county offices and for the house of representatives present their claims for support at the regular campaign meeting scheduled for Fort Mill. The meeting was held in Confederate park and was presided over by Dr. T. S. Kirkpatrick in the morning and by Hon. S. H. Epps in the afternoon. Legislative candidates addressed the crowd before adjournment for dinner and the candidates for county offices had their say in the afternoon. The attendance was disappointingly small.

If coffee really keeps people awake, it might be a good idea to serve it just before some candidates begin to recite their pieces.

ROAD CONTRACT LET.

Mecklenburg to Improve Highway to New River Bridge.

Mecklenburg county, N. C., is to spend \$186,000 for hard-surfacing the public road from the Charlotte township line to the Catawba river bridge now being erected jointly by that county and York county. The length of the road to be hard-surfaced is approximately 11 miles and the contract for the work, which is to begin within 30 days, was let Tuesday morning by the Mecklenburg Highway commission to the Noll Construction company. The road will be 18 feet wide. The basis of pay for the work is \$2.45 per square yard for laying the concrete base and the asphalt top and 50 cents per cubic yard for all necessary grading.

In Charlotte the York road is regarded as one of the most important running out from that city and when the York-Mecklenburg bridge across the Catawba river is completed it will mean direct communication for Charlotte with one of the best sections of York county and will also shorten by several miles the distance between the town of York and Charlotte. The new bridge is being built at the old "Buster" Boyd ferry, 13 miles northwest of Fort Mill. When completed it will represent an investment of about \$100,000, a third of which will be paid by York county and the other two-thirds by Mecklenburg county.

PLANT A FALL GARDEN.

A small amount of time and labor expended in the preparation and planting of a fall garden will bring valuable returns. Aside from the pleasure of having fresh vegetables for the table during the winter months, the financial saving is worth considering. Following is a list of vegetables that may be included in the fall garden:

Beets—Sow beet seed the first part of September. The plants will stand the winter and produce beets for early spring use.

Cabbage—Good plants of the Wakefield variety if set now will form heads before cold weather. With slight protection, both cabbage and collards will carry through our severest winters.

Kale—Seed sown during September will produce an abundance of greens during winter and early spring. "Siberian Curled" is a good fall variety.

Lettuce—Sow "Big Boston" variety for a supply of delightful salad during fall and winter. With slight protection firm heads can be produced.

Mustard—Seed sown during September will furnish greens throughout the fall, winter and early spring.

Onions—Sets of "White Pearl" variety will furnish bulbs and tops during the winter and early spring. Seeds may be sown from September 20 to October 10.

Garden Peas—Plant during November for the earliest spring crops. "Alaska" is a good variety for fall planting.

Radish—"Long White Spanish" or some of the other winter varieties sown the last of September will remain in good condition throughout the winter.

Rape—Though commonly put in for pasturage, rape seed sown in September will yield excellent winter greens.

Spinach—One of the most delightful vegetables. Seed sown the last of September or the early part of October will produce greens throughout the winter until late spring.

Turnips—This is one of the reliable vegetables that will produce both roots and tops for winter and spring use. Sow seed September 1 to 20.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Fort Mill Cooperative association, the resignation of George Fish as president was accepted and W. B. Meacham was elected to succeed him. The association conducts a grocery business on upper Main street, of which E. S. Parks is manager.

SHORT NEWS STORIES.

Items of Interest From Various Sections of Country.

Thieves using automobiles in one night tore down the bleachers, fences, grandstand and club house of the Drifton, Pa., baseball park and carried away the lumber.

Apologizing as they searched through his pockets, three masked bandits stole \$1,300 from the Rev. Clyde Lowman of New Bedford, Mass., and drove away in the minister's automobile.

Republican leaders in Washington are still trying to work out some sort of a plan to raise the money to finance the soldier bonus, thus hoping to frame a bill that will meet with the approval of President Harding.

Four copper pennies constituted the loot obtained by robbers who carried away a 500 pound safe from the railway station at Stony Point, Canada. The safe was found blown to pieces in a ditch some distance from the station.

One hundred thousand dollars worth of high-power automatic pistols have been stolen from the government stores in New York city and many of them have been sold to crooks, according to a recent announcement by government agents.

Hopeful that specialists in Rochester, Minn., could restore his sight, Jack Lockett, a blind painter of Dallas, Tex., rode 1,500 miles on a tandem bicycle, guided by his 12-year-old son, to learn upon his arrival at Rochester that his case was hopeless.

The millions of visitors who go to New York city annually will have to tell the police all about it—where they are from, how they came, how long they expect to stay, and where they plan to stop—if Police Commissioner Enright succeeds in putting into effect the pet idea he brought back from a recent tour of Europe.

Sweeping him off as she would a doormat after she had knocked him down, a daughter of Josiah Smith, 95 years old, of Sayville, N. Y., saved the aged man's life when he was attacked by a swarm of bees. The bees stung the old man from head to foot, but his daughter came to his rescue with a broom and saved him.

An attempt by Lieut. J. S. Doolittle of the army flying corps to cross the continent in 24 hours was thwarted at the get-away at Jacksonville, Fla., when his specially constructed airplane was wrecked. Doolittle had planned to fly from Florida to San Diego, Cal., making but one stop, at San Antonio, Tex. The flight has been indefinitely postponed.

Mrs. A. P. Crawford, 71 years old, of Greensboro, N. C., is taking a course in Columbia university summer school, New York city, because she believes there is no need to grow old mentally. Fifty years ago she was graduated from Vassar college. Two of her six children are school teachers.

A million human beings, waifs of a war torn continent, are scattered throughout the countries of Europe, derelicts without a country. They cannot claim the citizenship of any land. The police register them on a "tolerance list," but virtually they are prisoners, for they have no passports and only with the greatest difficulty can they move from one country to another. Russians head the list of waifs, there being thousands of them in Berlin alone.

Could Have Eaten Keg.

"When I was a boy my parents always told me that it was wrong to drink whiskey," a day or two ago said a Fort Mill man who had just returned from a trip to the mountains of North Carolina. "Of course there was plenty of 'good stuff' set before me while I was in the mountains and it certainly had a fine odor. One old fellow kept his in kegs, and I was standing here trying to figure out just how much I would give for one of those kegs to eat at supertime tonight."

Men talk of things they want to sell, while women talk of things they want to buy.